

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for digital image management, comprising:
 - ~~_____ receiving a digital image associated with a specific time;~~
 - receiving user input defining identifying a plurality of calendar entry entries, each calendar entry in the plurality of calendar entries comprising a respective topic and a respective time interval, the topic representing an event, a person, a geographic location, a logical location, or an object; and
 - _____ identifying a digital image, the digital image being associated with a time stamp;
 - ~~_____ if the corresponding time interval includes the specific time;~~
 - _____ automatically selecting a calendar entry in the plurality of calendar entries, the selected calendar entry having a time interval that includes the time stamp of the image; and
 - automatically associating the selected calendar entry with the digital image; and
 - ~~_____ storing an association between the calendar entry and the digital image on a computer-readable medium.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for digital image management, comprising:

receiving a digital image, the digital image being associated with a specific time
stamp;

~~identifying receiving user input defining~~ a first calendar entry comprising a first topic and a first time interval, ~~the first topic representing an event, a person, a geographic location, a logical location, or an object,~~ the first time interval including the specific time
stamp;

~~identifying receiving user input defining~~ a second calendar entry comprising a second topic and a second time interval, ~~the second topic representing an event, a person, a geographic location, a logical location, or an object,~~ the second time interval overlapping with the first time interval and including the specific time
stamp;

comparing the first topic with second topic or the first time interval with the second time interval, the comparison based upon configurable rules;

based upon the comparison, automatically selecting one of the calendar entries to associate with the digital image; and

storing an association between the selected calendar entry and the digital image on a computer-readable medium.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein:
each calendar entry further includes a note, the note including a classification for the topic represented by the calendar entry; and
the selecting is based on classifications of the topics represented by the calendar entries.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein:
the comparison is based on configurable rules, the rules including one or more of:
 - (a) if one calendar entry's time interval is longer than and totally overlaps the other calendar entry's time interval, the calendar entry having the longer time interval is designated to be a parent calendar entry of the calendar entry having the shorter time interval, and the parent calendar entry is associated with the image;
 - (b) if neither calendar entry's time interval lies completely within the other calendar entry's time interval, then the shorter calendar entry is split into a third and fourth calendar entry, the third calendar entry being the part overlapping the longer calendar entry and the fourth being the part not overlapping the longer calendar entry, then the longer calendar entry is designated to be a parent calendar entry of the third calendar entry, and the parent calendar entry is associated with the image;
 - (c) if the two time intervals are coextensive, then the calendar entry with a less specific topic is designated to be a parent calendar entry of the calendar entry with a more specific topic, and the parent calendar entry is associated with the image; or
 - (d) so long as the two topics do not both represent geographic locations, both calendar entries are associated with the image.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein:
the storing of the association includes tagging the digital image with an identifier of the calendar entry.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein:
the digital image is stored in a file that includes a metadata field;
the calendar entry includes a label; and
the tagging includes storing the label in the metadata field.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein ~~the rules specify that when the~~ topic of the calendar entry represents one of a person, ~~and a geographic location,~~ a logical

~~location and an object, confirmation is to be requested before associating the digital image with the identifier.~~

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving an image grade definable by user input, the image grade specifying a level of interest for the digital image;
associating the image grade with the digital image; and
storing an association between the image grade and the digital image on the computer-readable medium.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising:
receiving search criteria specifying a threshold grade; and
searching the computer-readable medium for digital images that have grades exceeding the threshold grade.
11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving an image grade definable by user input, the image grade specifying a level of quality for the digital image;
associating the image grade with the digital image; and
storing an association between the image grade and the digital image on the computer-readable medium.
12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising:
receiving search criteria specifying a threshold grade; and
searching the computer-readable medium for digital images that have grades exceeding the threshold grade.
13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving one of a text file, audio file or video file; and
associating the text file, audio file, or video file with the digital image.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving search criteria ~~that specify~~specifying a particular ~~the~~ calendar entry in the
plurality of calendar entries; and
searching for digital images associated with the particular calendar entry.
15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
presenting a link with the selected calendar entry, the link being configured to return
any digital images associated with the selected calendar entry.
16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the selected calendar entry
further includes a note field, the method further comprising:
receiving user input specifying a topic; and
storing the user input into the note field.
17. (Canceled)
18. (Canceled)
19. (Previously Presented) A method for displaying images, comprising:
clustering images in an image library into groups, each image including a time stamp
that indicates when the image was captured;
for each group, determining the number of images in the group and a time interval
delimited by an earliest time stamp and a latest time stamp of images in the group;
for each group, determining a time scale for displaying the group, the determining
being based on the number of images in the group and the time interval delimited by an earliest
time stamp and a latest time stamp of images of the group; and
when an image of a group is selected, displaying other images of the group over a
timeline having the time scale determined for displaying the group.
20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein:
the timeline is a calendar.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer-program product, tangibly stored on a computer-readable medium, for digital image management, the product comprising instructions to cause a processor to:

~~_____ receive a digital image associated with a specific time;~~

~~identify receive user input defining a plurality of calendar entry entries, each calendar entry in the plurality of calendar entries comprising a respective topic and a respective time interval, the topic representing an event, a person, a geographic location, a logical location, or an object; and~~

~~_____ identify a digital image, the digital image being associated with a time stamp; if the corresponding time interval includes the specific time:~~

~~_____ select a calendar entry in the plurality of calendar entries, the selected calendar entry having a time interval that includes the time stamp of the image; and~~

~~automatically associate the selected calendar entry with the digital image; and~~

~~_____ store an association between the calendar entry and the digital image on a second computer-readable medium.~~

22. (Currently Amended) A system for digital image management comprising:

~~_____ means to receive a digital image associated with a specific time;~~

~~means for to identify receiving user input defining a plurality of calendar entry entries, each calendar entry in the plurality of calendar entries comprising a respective topic and a respective time interval, the topic representing an event, a person, a geographic location, a logical location, or an object; and~~

~~_____ means for identifying a digital image, the digital image being associated with a time stamp; means to, if the corresponding time interval includes the specific time:~~

~~_____ means for selecting a calendar entry in the plurality of calendar entries, the selected calendar entry having a time interval that includes the time stamp of the image; and~~

~~_____ means for automatically associate associating the selected calendar entry with the digital image; and~~

~~_____ store an association between the calendar entry and the digital image on a second computer-readable medium.~~

23. (Previously Presented) A computer-program product, tangibly stored on a computer-readable medium, for displaying images, the product comprising instructions to cause a processor to:

cluster images in an image library into groups, each image including a time stamp that indicates when the image was captured;

for each group, determine the number of images in the group and a time interval delimited by an earliest time stamp and a latest time stamp of images in the group;

for each group, determine a time scale for displaying the group, the determination being based on the number of images in the group and the time interval delimited by an earliest time stamp and a latest time stamp of images of the group; and

when an image of a group is selected, display other images of the group over a timeline having the time scale determined for displaying the group.

24. (Currently Amended) A system for displaying images comprising:

means ~~to~~for clustering images in an image library into groups, each image including a time stamp that indicates when the image was captured;

means ~~to~~for, for each group, ~~determine~~determining the number of images in the group and a time interval delimited by an earliest time stamp and a latest time stamp of images in the group;

means ~~to~~for, for each group, ~~determine~~determining a time scale for displaying the group, the determination being based on the number of images in the group and the time interval delimited by an earliest time stamp and a latest time stamp of images of the group; and

means ~~to~~for, when an image of a group is selected, displaying other images of the group over a timeline having the time scale determined for displaying the group.

25. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
presenting the selected calendar entry on a display device, the calendar entry being presented in a calendar-centric representation including a presentation of:
the time interval, and
the digital image.
26. (New) A computer program product, encoded on a computer-readable medium, operable to cause data processing apparatus to perform operations comprising:
receiving a digital image, the digital image being associated with a time stamp;
receiving user input defining a first calendar entry comprising a first topic and a first time interval, the first time interval including the time stamp;
receiving user input defining a second calendar entry comprising a second topic and a second time interval, the second time interval overlapping with the first time interval and including the time stamp;
comparing the first topic with second topic or the first time interval with the second time interval, the comparison based upon configurable rules;
based upon the comparison, automatically selecting one of the calendar entries to associate with the digital image; and
storing an association between the selected calendar entry and the digital image on a computer-readable medium.
27. (New) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein:
each calendar entry further includes a note, the note including a classification for the topic represented by the calendar entry; and
the selecting is based on classifications of the topics represented by the calendar entries.

28. (New) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein:
- the comparison is based on configurable rules, the rules including one or more of:
- (a) if one calendar entry's time interval is longer than and totally overlaps the other calendar entry's time interval, the calendar entry having the longer time interval is designated to be a parent calendar entry of the calendar entry having the shorter time interval, and the parent calendar entry is associated with the image;
 - (b) if neither calendar entry's time interval lies completely within the other calendar entry's time interval, then the shorter calendar entry is split into a third and fourth calendar entry, the third calendar entry being the part overlapping the longer calendar entry and the fourth being the part not overlapping the longer calendar entry, then the longer calendar entry is designated to be a parent calendar entry of the third calendar entry, and the parent calendar entry is associated with the image;
 - (c) if the two time intervals are coextensive, then the calendar entry with a less specific topic is designated to be a parent calendar entry of the calendar entry with a more specific topic, and the parent calendar entry is associated with the image; or
 - (d) so long as the two topics do not both represent geographic locations, both calendar entries are associated with the image.

29. (New) A system comprising:

means for receiving a digital image, the digital image being associated with a time stamp;

means for receiving user input defining a first calendar entry comprising a first topic and a first time interval, the first time interval including the time stamp;

means for receiving user input defining a second calendar entry comprising a second topic and a second time interval, the second time interval overlapping with the first time interval and including the time stamp;

means for comparing the first topic with second topic or the first time interval with the second time interval, the comparison based upon configurable rules;

means for based upon the comparison, automatically selecting one of the calendar entries to associate with the digital image; and

means for storing an association between the selected calendar entry and the digital image on a computer-readable medium.

30. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein:

each calendar entry further includes a note, the note including a classification for the topic represented by the calendar entry; and

the selecting is based on classifications of the topics represented by the calendar entries.

31. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein:

the comparison is based on configurable rules, the rules including one or more of:

(a) if one calendar entry's time interval is longer than and totally overlaps the other calendar entry's time interval, the calendar entry having the longer time interval is designated to be a parent calendar entry of the calendar entry having the shorter time interval, and the parent calendar entry is associated with the image;

(b) if neither calendar entry's time interval lies completely within the other calendar entry's time interval, then the shorter calendar entry is split into a third and fourth calendar entry, the third calendar entry being the part overlapping the longer calendar entry and the fourth being the part not overlapping the longer calendar entry, then the longer calendar entry is designated to be a parent calendar entry of the third calendar entry, and the parent calendar entry is associated with the image;

(c) if the two time intervals are coextensive, then the calendar entry with a less specific topic is designated to be a parent calendar entry of the calendar entry with a more specific topic, and the parent calendar entry is associated with the image; or

(d) so long as the two topics do not both represent geographic locations, both calendar entries are associated with the image.

32. (New) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein:

the storing of the association includes tagging the digital image with an identifier of the calendar entry.

33. (New) The computer program product of claim 32, wherein:

the digital image is stored in a file that includes a metadata field;

the calendar entry includes a label; and

the tagging includes storing the label in the metadata field.

34. (New) The computer program product of claim 32, wherein rules specify the topic of the calendar entry represents one of a person, a geographic location, a logical location and an object.

35. (New) The computer program product of claim 21, the product further comprising instructions to cause a processor to:

receive an image grade definable by user input, the image grade specifying a level of interest for the digital image;

associate the image grade with the digital image; and

store an association between the image grade and the digital image on the computer-readable medium.

36. (New) The computer program product of claim 35, the product further comprising instructions to cause a processor to:

receive search criteria specifying a threshold grade; and

search the computer-readable medium for digital images that have grades exceeding the threshold grade.

37. (New) The computer program product of claim 21, the product further comprising instructions to cause a processor to:

receive an image grade definable by user input, the image grade specifying a level of quality for the digital image;

associate the image grade with the digital image; and

store an association between the image grade and the digital image on the computer-readable medium.

38. (New) The computer program product of claim 37, the product further comprising instructions to cause a processor to:

receive search criteria specifying a threshold grade; and

search the computer-readable medium for digital images that have grades exceeding the threshold grade.

39. (New) The computer program product of claim 21, the product further comprising instructions to cause a processor to:

receive one of a text file, audio file or video file; and
associate the text file, audio file, or video file with the digital image.

40. (New) The computer program product of claim 21, the product further comprising instructions to cause a processor to:

receive search criteria specifying a particular calendar entry in the plurality of calendar entries; and

search for digital images associated with the particular calendar entry.

41. (New) The computer program product of claim 21, the product further comprising instructions to cause a processor to:

present a link with the selected calendar entry, the link being configured to return any digital images associated with the selected calendar entry.

42. (New) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the selected calendar entry further includes a note field, the product further comprising instructions to cause a processor to:

receive user input specifying a topic; and
store the user input into the note field.

43. (New) The computer program product of claim 21, the product further comprising instructions to cause a processor to:

present the selected calendar entry on a display device, the calendar entry being presented in a calendar-centric representation including a presentation of:

the time interval, and
the digital image.

44. (New) The system of claim 22, wherein:

the storing of the association includes tagging the digital image with an identifier of the calendar entry.

45. (New) The system of claim 44, wherein:
the digital image is stored in a file that includes a metadata field;
the calendar entry includes a label; and
the tagging includes storing the label in the metadata field.
46. (New) The system of claim 44, wherein rules specify the topic of the calendar entry represents one of a person, a geographic location, a logical location and an object.
47. (New) The system of claim 22, further comprising:
means for receiving an image grade definable by user input, the image grade specifying a level of interest for the digital image;
means for associating the image grade with the digital image; and
means for storing an association between the image grade and the digital image on the computer-readable medium.
48. (New) The system of claim 47, further comprising:
means for receiving search criteria specifying a threshold grade; and
means for searching the computer-readable medium for digital images that have grades exceeding the threshold grade.
49. (New) The system of claim 22, further comprising:
means for receiving an image grade definable by user input, the image grade specifying a level of quality for the digital image;
means for associating the image grade with the digital image; and
means for storing an association between the image grade and the digital image on the computer-readable medium.
50. (New) The system of claim 49, further comprising:
means for receiving search criteria specifying a threshold grade; and
means for searching the computer-readable medium for digital images that have grades exceeding the threshold grade.

51. (New) The system of claim 22, further comprising:
means for receiving one of a text file, audio file or video file; and
means for associating the text file, audio file, or video file with the digital image.
52. (New) The system of claim 22, further comprising:
means for receiving search criteria specifying a particular calendar entry in the
plurality of calendar entries; and
means for searching for digital images associated with the particular calendar entry.
53. (New) The system of claim 22, further comprising:
means for presenting a link with the selected calendar entry, the link being configured
to return any digital images associated with the selected calendar entry.
54. (New) The system of claim 22, wherein the selected calendar entry further includes
a note field, the system further comprising:
means for receiving user input specifying a topic; and
means for storing the user input into the note field.
55. (New) The system of claim 22, further comprising:
means for presenting the selected calendar entry on a display device, the calendar
entry being presented in a calendar-centric representation including a presentation of:
the time interval, and
the digital image.
56. (New) The computer program product of claim 23, wherein:
the timeline is a calendar.
57. (New) The system of claim 24, wherein:
the timeline is a calendar.